

a7 with --] for the removal of tissue, comprising an outer tube having an opening, for accepting tissue, in a distal region, preferentially in the vicinity of the distal end of the outer tube and with an inner tube disposed within the outer tube and having a rigid proximal region for transmitting forces or momenta acting on this proximal region to a distal region of the inner tube, preferentially to the distal end of the inner tube, and also with a cutting tool disposed at the distal region of the inner tube, preferentially on the distal end of the inner tube, for cutting tissue subjected to the influence of the cutting tool in the vicinity of the opening of the distal region of the outer tube, wherein the inner tube comprises a flexible region between its rigid proximal region and the cutting tool] --.

On page 4, insert as a title before the last paragraph

a3 --] SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION / --.

a4 On page 4, last paragraph lines 1 and 2 replace "having the features of the independent claim" with --] in accordance with the invention, in that the inner tube has a slit in its wall at the flexible region which, as seen in the longitudinal direction of the inner tube, winds in a helical path about the longitudinal axis of the inner tube and meanders back and forth with respect to this helical path] --.

On page 8, insert as a title following the third paragraph

a5 --] BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING / --.

On page 8, insert as a title following the brief description of the drawings

a6 --] DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT / --.